



MARCONI

COLOURS: SHIRT - SKY BLUE
SHORTS - SKY BLUE
SOCKS - SKY BLUE

1. ALLAN MAHER
2. BARRY JONES
3. PAUL DEGNEY
4. JOHN RUSSELL
6. RAY RICHARDS
7. GARY BYRNE
8. ROBERTO VIERI
9. JIM ROONEY (Capt.)
10. ALBERTO MARIANI
11. PETER SHARNE
12. RICHIE WILLIAMS
13. STUART SELVAGE
14. MARK JANKOVICS
15. PETER BROGAN
20. JIM FRASER



WEST. SUBURBS

COLOURS: SHIRT - WHITE
SHORTS - BLACK
SOCKS - RED

1. TERRY EATON
2. ROD SKELLERN
3. WARREN TURNBULL
4. BOBBY NOBLE
5. PETER WILSON (Capt.)
6. DAVE HARDING
7. BRIAN DODD
8. PETER STONE
9. ANDY SCOTT
10. CLIVE EATON
11. BRIAN O'DONNELL
12. JOHN VERNON
13. IAN ROWDEN
20. GREG WOODEHOUSE

COACH: MIKE LAING

REFEREE: RESULT:

SCORERS:- Marconi

West. Suburbs



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Philips Soccer League



VOL. 4

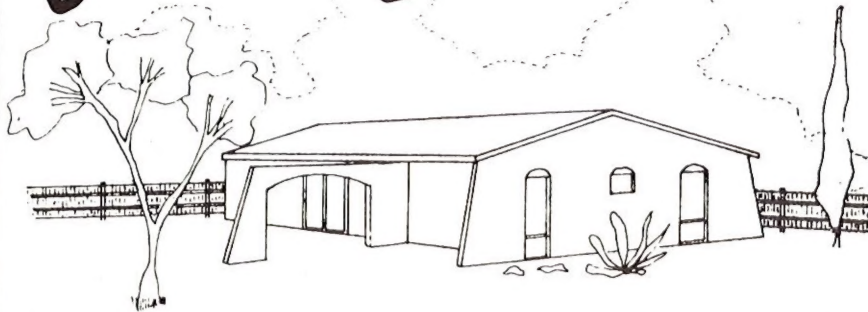
TEAM PHOTO SOUVENIR

MARCONI vs. WEST. SUBURBS

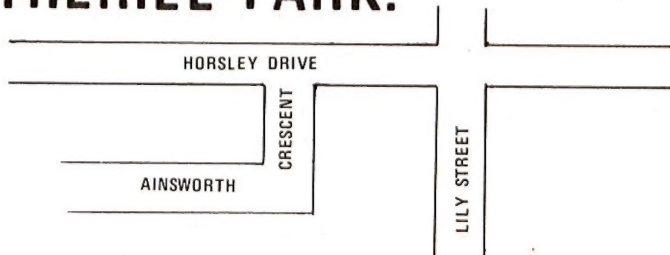
SUNDAY, 16th APRIL, 1978 - MARCONI OVAL - KICK-OFF 3.00 P.M.

YOUTH LEAGUE: Marconi Comets vs. Western Suburbs Magpies - 1.00 P.M.

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MY VIEW

by RALE RASIC.

In many people's eyes, Kerry Packer is the "bad boy" of Australian sport.

Mr. Packer, of course, is the man who lured just about every top player away from official Test cricket and into his own competition - World Series Cricket.

In my opinion, however, Kerry Packer taught a lot of people many things about the promotion of big time sport in Australia.

I only wish he had devoted his time and money to Soccer.

World Series Cricket put professional men in charge of professional sport. There's nothing wrong with that.

It is undeniable that Australians are too conservative in their handling of sport. We need more razzamataz, more flamboyance, more exhibitionism. Sport has to be sold in a big to its reluctant paying customers these days.

This is why the United States has made such dramatic strides in Soccer. Everything there takes second place to promotion. As soon as one match is ended, there is a top-level meeting of club officials to plan and promote the next match. It is a non-stop operation. It is paying handsome dividends.

Australian Soccer has started to nibble at the problem but we're way behind the Yanks.

I realise it isn't easy mounting a huge promotional campaign for every match. Cash has to be spent. Invested is a better word. You have to spend a dollar to bring in two dollars at the gate.

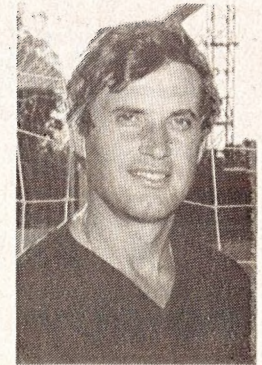
It seems Australians are not prepared to pay.

For instance, the Marconi Match Programme sold very slowly at 30 cents. Yet people in the game described it as easily the best programme ever put together. They complimented Marconi on producing it. Everyone, it seems, liked it. But they wouldn't buy it.

When Marconi charged \$3 for match admission in a bid to offset the huge cost of the new grand stand, there were again complaints about over-charging. It seems you can't win when you try to make progress.

On reflection, perhaps it is just as well Kerry Packer did not jump into Australian Soccer. He would have found it a terribly frustrating business convincing the public that he could offer them something better than they were used to!

Particularly if people were asked to pay a little extra.



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NEW STAND....IT'S OFFICIAL NOW!

Today sees the opening, officially, of Marconi's new grand stand.

Although the stand has been in operation since the first match of the season against Fitzroy United, the official ceremony to open it was delayed until today.

The top-of-the-table match between Marconi and Western Suburbs is the ideal occasion for these celebrations.

Marconi have dreamed and planned for several years about the new grand stand.

Today, all the dreaming and planning seems eminently worthwhile.

The Club invited many VIP's to attend the official opening ceremony. These included the following:- Jack Ferguson, Deputy Premier of NSW, who performed the opening ceremony.

Ken Booth, NSW Minister of Sport.

Dott. Tedeschi, Italy's Consul General.

Alderman Mrs. Janice Crosio, Mayoress of Fairfield.

Tony Smith, the Licensing Sergeant.

It could be said, truthfully, that Soccer history is being made by Marconi today.

Without doubt, the new grand stand will be a model which all other Soccer clubs will be anxious to copy.

We are happy that Marconi is first in the field.



L'espressione più semplice della natura è l'acqua. Dall'acqua deriva ogni cosa ed ogni cosa deve ritornare all'acqua.

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umbro

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Marconi Drops Point to Adelaide City

by RALE RASIC.

It would be easy to condemn Adelaide City for playing negative football in their 1 - 1 draw with Marconi. It was apparent to all at the match that the South Australians came here to try to save a point. They were not looking for a win.

At times, they had nine or ten men back in defence. They frequently relied on only one striker, John Nyskohus. They had a four-man midfield.

This is difficult stuff to play against. Yet I do not criticise Adelaide City for their tactics. They were well organised in defence, showed plenty of excellent discipline and were occasionally dangerous when they broke out to counter attack.

City were after a draw — and they got it.

Marconi did not play well. For once, our much-admired midfield was below form. That is why victory eluded us.

Naturally, Marconi didn't like dropping their first point of the season but in a season of 26 matches, it would be ridiculous to expect any team to win every match.

Adelaide City, in fact, were ahead at one stage when an error by a Marconi man let John Nyskohus score the opening goal. That was a few minutes before half-time.

Even closer to half-time, Marconi were awarded a penalty kick from which Gary Byrne scored. That was the end of the goalscoring.

I have been accused, in the past, of being a bad loser. I don't think I am. And on this occasion, I'm happy to say.....well done Adelaide City. You fought for your point for the whole 90 minutes and we at Marconi have no complaints about the result.



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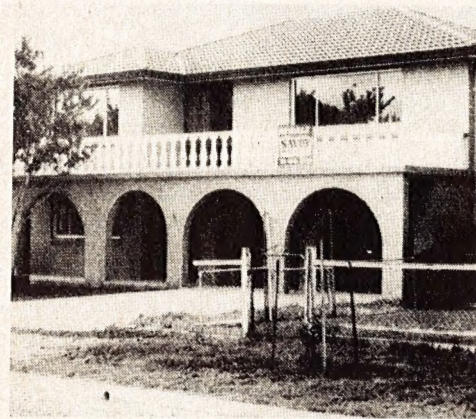
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Welcome Western Suburbs

Ever since Western Suburbs were promoted to first division Soccer in 1970, they have been worthy opponents for all teams.

With the backing of a prosperous social club and a professional approach to Soccer, Wests have proved themselves among the top clubs in Australia.

Their only problem, and it is a big one, is their inability to attract large crowds to their matches. It has been said that Wests are a better team than their supporters deserve.


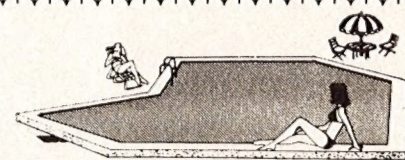
Without doubt, they will give Marconi a hard battle this afternoon.

Capably coached by Englishman, Mike Laing, Wests have an impressive squad of players. We'd like you to meet them:-

- (1) **TERRY EATON** — goalkeeper. English-born, but resident in Australia for the past 12 years, Eaton may be a veteran in years yet he is still one of the safest goalies in the Philips Soccer League. Played for Australia last year against Middlesbrough.
- (2) **ROD SKELLERN** — right back. This youngster is one of several Wests players to graduate through the minor grades. Has successfully filled a full-back gap caused when Col Curran and Steve Perry left Wests this year. Selected for NSW State squad only last week.
- (3) **WARREN TURNBULL** — defender. Turnbull is another Australian-born youngster to have come through Wests grade teams. A utility player, he has played in all departments of the team except goalkeeper.
- (4) **BOBBY NOBLE** — defender. Brought to Sydney from England by Mike Laing, Noble is one of the toughest tacklers in the PSL. A difficult man to pass. Formed good partnership with Peter Wilson.
- (5) **PETER WILSON** — centre-half. Needs no introduction. As Australia's national team captain for the past eight years, Wilson is the model of consistency. Came to Australia from Middlesbrough reserve team 10 years ago.
- (6) **DAVE HARDING** — midfield. This former Pan Hellenic player is from England's Merseyside area. Has played many times for Australia's national team. Possesses a rocket shot.
- (7) **BRIAN DODD** — midfield or striker. A young player from the south coast of NSW, Dodd can be either brilliant or frustrating. Still trying to win a permanent place in Wests team, Dodd has plenty of unfulfilled potential.
- (10) **CLIVE EATON** — centre-forward. A fiery forward capable of scoring goals if given any room. Comes from England's Potteries district and played there for Stoke City.
- (8) **PETER STONE** — midfield. One of the best Australian-born players in Soccer, Stone is now a regular choice for the national team. A non-stop worker with fine touches, he is still in his early 20's and must have a rosy future.
- (11) **BRIAN O'DONNELL** — midfield. This 20 year-old arrived in Australia from England only this season. Settling down well in Wests side and should get better. Played for Bristol Rovers before coming to Sydney.
- (12) **JOHN VERNON** — winger. Like O'Donnell, Vernon is a recent recruit from English football. Played for Stockport County in the Football League but is taking time to adjust to the local Soccer scene. Age 21.
- (13) **IAN ROWDEN** — full-back. This Australian youngster has worked his way through Wests minor grades and is now staking a claim for a regular spot in the defence.

cont. next page.

- () **MARK SAMUELS** — winger. Little but good. That just about sums up Mark who is another of Wests junior products. Should win a permanent first team place this year. Starred in the Tasman Cup in schoolboy Soccer. Fast and an opportunist goalscorer. Spent some months last year with Tottenham Hotspur to improve his football knowledge.
- () **ALLAN FISHER** — forward. Went with Mark Samuels to London last year to train with the famous Spurs. Fisher hopes to gain a first XI place with Wests this year and he has already figured prominently in their early PSL matches.
- (9) **ANDY SCOTT** — centre-forward. Another UK import, Scott flew into Sydney Airport only last week. Played for Stockport County in England and comes here as a result of good reports from Wests' agents there. At 6ft 2ins and 13 stone, Scott looks big enough and strong enough to unsettle any defence.

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A Soccer Shambles

by DAVID JACK of the Sydney Sun.



The Philips Soccer League match last Sunday between Easts Hakoah and Marconi was billed as "the match of the year."

It failed to live up to its advance publicity.

Many reasons have been advanced for this. For instance, referee Barry Wilkinson was bitterly criticised by players and officials of both teams for his handling of the game.

Mr. Wilkinson did not have a good match. But, in fairness to him, I do not see why the referee has to suffer all the abuse when so many players misbehave and blatantly break the laws of the game.

Criticise the ref, certainly. But don't excuse the players.

If they refuse to behave, any referee is going to have an uphill struggle.

Had Mr. Wilkinson awarded Marconi a penalty kick when Peter Sharne was grounded in the fourth minute, it might have been a different story.

There would have been no complaints from Hakoah if there had been a penalty: but there were plenty of complaints from Marconi when the penalty was refused.

So the referee made things hard for himself.

The tragedy of the match was that we saw, in several first half attacking moves, class and talent in plenty on the field.

Some of Marconi's football in the first 45 minutes was great. In the second half, all the goalscoring ideas belonged to Hakoah.

An "old boy" of Marconi, Ernie Campbell, nearly won both points for Hakoah on two occasions in the second half.

But had either of his efforts gone in, it would have done less than justice to Marconi.

Perhaps a draw was a fair result, bearing in mind the way so many players kicked and tripped when they should have been concentrating on Soccer.

It was one of those days I'd rather forget.....as quickly as possible.

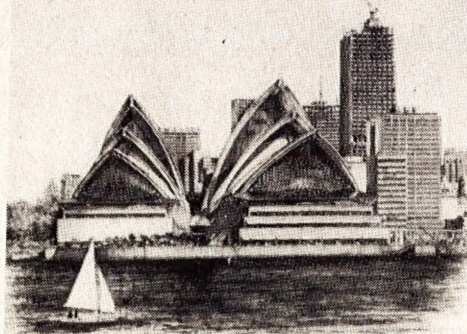
I don't think either team deserved to win !

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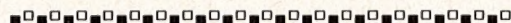
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a cura di M. PAGNIN.

PRSKALO: "L'Italia ha prodotto i migliori liberi"

380 presenze nelle file del Velez Mostar nel massimo campionato jugoslavo, tre campionati giocati nel ruolo di terzino, sette in quello di centromediano, sei gol realizzati sono dati che da soli, meglio di ogni altra cosa, servono a presentare Ivo Prskalo, il mancino terribile del Marconi.

Ivo è nato a Mostara il 26 novembre 1948. Ha iniziato a prendere a calci un pallone giovanissimo nelle minori del Velez. Gradatamente, ma alquanto in fretta, si impose all'attenzione dei tecnici che lo inserirono in prima squadra. Il suo posto di titolare Ivo lo lasciò soltanto due anni fa quando fu ingaggiato dal Marconi.



Prskalo è un mancino puro. Guai se sapesse usare anche il destro. Data la sua indiscussa esperienza gioca nel ruolo di libero. A lui spetta il compito di organizzare, a seconda delle occasioni che di volta in volta si presentano, il reparto difensivo.

In possesso di un ottimo tiro e di una chiara visione di gioco Ivo spesso e volentieri non disdegna una puntatina in avanti. Alcuni suoi lanci lunghi per Sharne e Jankovics o per la testa di Mariani molto spesso vengono sapientemente concretizzati.

Prskalo conosce soltanto qualche parola di inglese, mentre il suo italiano migliora continuamente. Per intervistarlo abbiamo avuto bisogno della collaborazione di Rale Rasic che molto gentilmente ci ha fatto da interprete.

Con Ivo abbiamo parlato del calcio australiano in generale confrontandolo con quello europeo. Prskalo ha detto che al calcio locale manca soltanto il senso professionale proprio dei giocatori, dei dirigenti capaci e degli allenatori e soprattutto degli arbitri competenti.

Ha proposito di arbitri abbiamo chiesto a Ivo come ha preso l'espulsione di domenica scorsa con l'Hakoah. Lo jugoslavo si è leggermente agitato dicendo che aveva visto il guardalinee alzare la bandierina per segnalare il fuorigioco di un'attaccante dell'Hakoah e che quindi di proposito ha fermato la palla.

Il Marconi, secondo Prskalo, ha buone probabilità di vincere il campionato, ma oltre all'Hakoah dovrà ben guardarsi dal South Melbourne.

Parlando del suo ruolo di libero Prskalo ha detto di non avere nessuna difficoltà. I colleghi mi ascoltano e con Maher e Russell ho già trovato una buona intesa, ci ha precisato il giocatore.

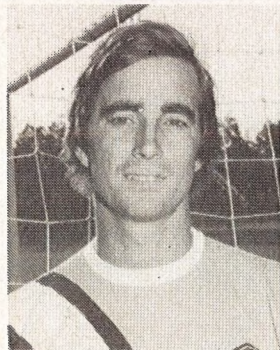
Dal Marconi siamo passati al calcio italiano e qui Prskalo ha avuto parole di elogio per Picchi, Cera e Facchetti. Ad eccezione di Beckenbauer e di Bobby Moore, ha precisato lo jugoslavo, i più forti liberi sono usciti dalla scuola italiana.

A Prskalo abbiamo infine chiesto circa il suo futuro in Australia.

Giocherò un altro anno o forse due, ha detto il difensore, poi tornerò in Jugoslavia. Ho molti amici, ha aggiunto Ivo, a cominciare da Rasic e da Vieri. L'Australia è una nazione giovane e meravigliosa, ma nel mio cuore, ha concluso il mancino, è rimasta la mia piccola cittadina di Mostara.

cont. next page

RUSSELL, gentleman John, non pensa alla nazionale



La carriera calcistica di Russell sembra destinata ad essere sempre subordinata al calcio italiano in Australia. Dopo una lunga milizia in maglia granata è approdato l'anno scorso nelle file del Marconi. Dopo aver fatto a lungo anticamera, essendoci in squadra quel colosso che corrisponde al nome di Hucker, ne ha definitivamente preso il posto quando il compagno ha dovuto lasciare per un serio infortunio.

Russell non ha fatto rimpiangere il collega anche se ad eccellenti prestazioni ha contrapposto prove davvero scialbe.

Russell è coniugato, ha una figlia di 18 mesi e la cicogna è nuovamente in viaggio. Tra i suoi hobby preferiti il surfing e la musica moderna. John ha un carattere mite, tranquillo. Non crea mai problemi. Ascolta con pazienza le direttive dell'allenatore e cerca di applicarle nel migliore dei modi. Per questo suo modo di comportarsi i compagni lo hanno soprannominato "gentleman John."

Abbiamo incontrato Russell negli spogliatoi del Marconi mentre si allacciava con cura le scarpe per raggiungere i compagni per il consueto allenamento serale. John ha risposto molto gentilmente alle nostre domande ponderando ogni singola risposta. Riportiamo integralmente il testo della nostra conversazione.

D - Dopo molta anticamera questo sembra essere l'anno buono. L'avvio di campionato è stato soddisfacente, unica pecca la partita contro il Brisbane City. È soddisfatto delle sue prestazioni?

R - Potrei fare meglio, ma tutto sommato sono abbastanza soddisfatto. Contro Marley del Brisbane City ho disputato forse la peggiore partita in maglia azzurra. Non lo avevo mai visto giocare. La prossima volta non sarà facile per lui.

D - Cosa pensa della sua squadra, dell'allenatore e dei nuovi acquisti Jankovics e Vieri?

R - Il Marconi è la squadra più professionista in Australia. Questo si è potuto realizzare grazie all'allenatore Rale Rasic che con i suoi metodi ci rende più responsabili. Jankovics ha tutti i numeri per diventare uno dei più forti attaccanti del campionato. Quasi quasi mi azzardo a pronosticare che vincerà la classifica cannonieri. Di Vieri c'è poco da dire. Ha un tocco di palla superlativo e ha una chiara visione del gioco. Sa sempre dove mettere il pallone.

D - Non ha mai fatto un pensierino alla nazionale?

R - Per carità, non mi passa nemmeno per l'anticamera del cervello. Ci sono giocatori più forti di me. Io penso soltanto a giocare bene per la mia squadra con la quale vorrei tanto poter vincere il campionato.

Con questa risposta da vero campione è terminata l'amichevole chiaccherata con Russell, chiaccherata che ci ha fatto chiaramente capire perchè i compagni lo chiamano "gentleman John".

(English Translation follows on page after adds.)

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In recent issues of the Marconi match programme, we have been publishing a couple of pages in Italian.

This is a very good idea for the Italian-speaking fans of the Soccer team, but not such a good idea for our English-speaking supporters.

Several, who cannot put three words of Italian together, have asked us what is written in the Italian language articles.

For their benefit, we are happy to provide a translation.

THE BLUES – One by One

This week, M. Pagnin, interviews two Marconi players – John Russell and Ivo Prskalo. This, in English, is roughly what the players told him:–

John Russell, age 27, is married. He and his wife, Donna, have an 18 months old daughter, Kelly and another Russell baby is on the way.

Russell started his Soccer career with Apia Juniors and worked his way through the grades to play in Apia's first XI.

At the start of last year, John was transferred to Marconi and, with his new club, he has built up a fine understanding with the more experienced, Ivo Prskalo.

John is convinced 1978 will be the year of Marconi, with the Philips Soccer League title coming our way. He says: "In my opinion, Marconi is the number one team in Australia and Rale Rasic the number one coach."

Russell is also a great admirer of Mark Jankovics, and predicts, "Mark is going to be the top forward in the country in a few years time."

For a player of such ability, John Russell has not been treated very kindly by selectors of Australia's national team.

But he doesn't worry about missing the international honours. "My main concern is club Soccer with Marconi. I don't think about playing for Australia. My ambition is to help bring the 1978 championship to Marconi."

John's great sporting love, apart from Soccer, is surfing.

Sharing the central defensive duties with Russell is Ivo Prskalo, from Yugoslavia.

Ivo was born in Mostar 30 years ago and played 380 matches for the Velez Mostar team in midfield and at full-back. He is married with a five years old daughter, Sanda. Ivo's wife is Maria.

Like Russell, Prskalo predicts great things for Mark Jankovics. He believes Roberto Vieri is a big influence in Marconi's successes and, off the field, he and Vieri have much in common.

Ivo says: "I enjoy playing football in Australia. I love this country. But when my Soccer career is over, I shall return to the land of my birth. My heart is in Yugoslavia.

"My hobbies include listening to modern music but my real hobby is Soccer.

"I hope Marconi will win the PSL title this year but we can expect plenty of opposition from South Melbourne, Easts Hakoah and, despite their slow start, perhaps even Adelaide City.

"Adelaide City are the hardest team of all to play against."

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CLUB NEWS from MARCONI

Congratulations to Paul Degney and Mark Jankovics on being selected in the NSW State squad to play touring Derby County.

Both players have earned their honour after playing exceptionally well in this year's early matches. We are disappointed that other Marconi men, in particular Peter Sharne, did not make the State squad but, with Philips League teams being restricted to two representatives, coach-selector Joe Vlasits had a problem.

May we also congratulate Peter Stone and Rod Skellern, two members of Western Suburbs side, on their NSW selection.

Marconi's girls team want to thank Ron Cavagnino for his generous donation of shorts for the team. Perhaps Ron wanted to do something nice to celebrate his birthday. He was 36 on the day he gave the girls their gear. Ron doesn't look a day over 46 either !

Talking about playing gear, Marconi's new outfits include track suits bearing the names and numbers of our players. It is a step forward.

Committee man Gary Dent is back at the club after recovering from a serious back injury. Good to have you back, Gary.

Marconi's Under 19 team was asked to compete in a youth tournament organised by the Assyrian Association. We were happy to agree and the Association has since thanked Marconi for cooperating.

Who said Soccer players were selfish? That certainly doesn't apply to our goalkeepers Allan Maher and Jum Fraser. These two internationals attended a coaching demonstration organised by Denes Adrigan at the Bankstown Soccer Centre on Easter Monday.

Allan and Jim gave up at least three hours of their leisure time on a day when they could easily have been having a well-earned rest.

Distinguished Guests at the Club Marconi recently were Alderman Frank Oliveri, Mayor of Liverpool, and Alderman Bill Sadler.

Both said they were very impressed by the facilities at the club. They enjoyed a lunch during their visit.

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LAST WEEKEND'S RESULTS AND TABLE

PHILIPS LEAGUE:

EASTERN SUBURBS HAKOAH 0 drew with MARCONI 0 at Wentworth Park
Crowd: 3598.
NEWCASTLE KB UNITED 3 beat ST. GEORGE 2 at Barton Park, Sydney
Crowd: 1637.
WESTERN SUBURBS 3 beat BRISBANE CITY 1 at Englefield Stadium, Sydney
Crowd: 500
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 beat ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
Crowd: 5895
SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 beat FOOTSCRAY 0 at Olympic Park, Melbourne
Crowd: 7000
BRISBANE LIONS 2 drew with CANBERRA CITY 2 at Perry Park, Brisbane
Crowd: 3000
WEST ADELAIDE 1 drew with FITZROY UNITED 1 at Melbourne

POINTS TABLE:

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MARCONI	4	2	—	13	3	10
STH. MELBOURNE	3	3	—	10	3	9
WESTS.	3	3	—	10	4	9
EASTS.	3	2	1	11	6	8
OLYMPIC	3	1	2	6	4	7
CANBERRA	1	4	1	10	10	6
W. ADELAIDE	2	2	2	7	7	6
BRIS. LIONS	1	3	2	8	12	5
ADEL. CITY	1	2	3	5	7	4
ST. GEORGE	2	—	4	8	10	4
BRIS. CITY	2	—	4	8	11	4
N'CASTLE	1	2	3	7	13	4
FITZROY	1	2	3	4	11	4
FOOTSCRAY	1	2	3	2	8	4

NEXT HOME MATCH

MARCONI vs. WEST ADELAIDE on Sunday, 30th April, 1978
kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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